PATENT 0303-0436P

IN THE U.S. PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

licant:

Tomohiko YAMAMOTO et al. Conf.:

1638

Appl. No.:

09/677,031

Group:

3726

Filed:

September 29, 2000

Examiner: J. C. HONG

For:

APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR TIGHTENING FIXING BAND AND CONSTANT VELOCITY

UNIVERSAL JOINT APPARATUS

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT (SUBMISSION AFTER FILING OF AN APPLICATION BUT BEFORE FINAL REJECTION OR NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE OR CONCURRENTLY WITH A RULE 1.114 RCE APPLICATION)

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450

RFCEIVFD November 14, 2003

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

NOV 2 5 2003

Sir:

TECHNOLOGY CENTER R3700

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98, applicant(s) hereby submit(s) an Information Disclosure Statement for consideration by the Examiner.

LIST OF PATENTS, PUBLICATIONS OR OTHER INFORMATION I.

The patents, publications, or other information submitted for consideration by the Office are listed on the PTO-1449(s), attached hereto.

- COPIES (check at least one box) II.
 - This application was filed before June 30, 2003. X a. Accordingly, submitted herewith is a legible copy of (i) each U.S. and foreign patent; (ii) each publication or that portion which caused it to be listed; and (iii) all other information or that portion which caused it to be listed.
 - b. after This application was filed on or June 30, 2003. Accordingly, copies of cited U.S. patents and patent application publications therefore are not included. Copies of foreign

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patent documents and non-patent literature are included.

c. Some or all of the documents listed on the PTO-1449 are not enclosed because they were cited in the International Search Report and copies should already be in the PTO file. If copies are needed, please contact the undersigned.

III. CONCISE EXPLANATION OF THE RELEVANCE (check at least one box)

a. DOCUMENTS IN THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE

The patents, publications, or other information listed on the attached PTO 1449 are in the English language and therefore, do not require a statement of relevancy.

b. DOCUMENTS NOT IN THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE

A concise explanation of the relevance of all patents, publications, or other information listed that is not in the English language is as follows:

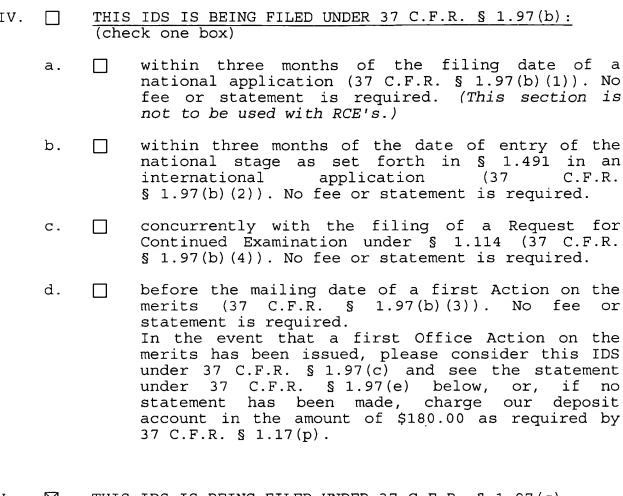
C. ENGLISH LANGUAGE SEARCH REPORT

An English language version of the search report or action that indicates the degree of relevance found by the foreign office is attached, thereby satisfying the requirement for a concise explanation. See MPEP 609(III)(A)(3).

d. OTHER

The following additional information is provided for the Examiner's consideration.

FEES



V. \(\times \) THIS IDS IS BEING FILED UNDER 37 C.F.R. \(\) 1.97(c): (check one box)

before the mailing date of a Final Office Action under 37 C.F.R. § 1.113 (See 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c)(1)) or before the mailing date of a Notice of Allowance under 37 C.F.R. § 1.311 (See 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c)(2)).

- a. \boxtimes No statement; therefore, a fee in the amount of \$180.00 as required by 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p).
- b.

 See the statement below. No fee is required.

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VI. STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e) (check only one box)

The undersigned hereby states that

- a.
 each item of information contained in the IDS was first cited in any communication from a foreign Patent Office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this IDS; or
- b. [] no item of information contained in the IDS was cited in a communication from a foreign Patent Office in a counterpart foreign application, and, to the knowledge of the person signing the certification after making reasonable inquiry, no item of IDS was known to any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of the IDS.
- Some of the items of information were cited in a c. П communication from a foreign Patent Office. As to this information, the undersigned states that each item of information contained in the IDS was first cited in a communication from a foreign Office in a counterpart application not more than three months prior to the filing of this IDS. As to the remaining information, the undersigned hereby states that no item of this remaining information contained in the IDS was cited in a communication from a foreign Patent Office in a counterpart foreign application and, to the best of my knowledge after making reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this statement.

VII. PAYMENT OF FEES (check one box)

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If the Examiner has any questions concerning this IDS, he/she is requested to contact the undersigned. If it is determined that this IDS has been filed under the wrong rule, the PTO is requested to consider this IDS under the proper rule and charge the appropriate fee to Deposit Account No. 02-2448.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

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JMS/gf 0303-0436P

Attachment(s):
☐ PTO-1449

□ Documents

☐ Foreign Search Report

X Fee

□ Other:

(Rev. 09/30/03)